



News and Events in the 5th Grade  
January 23rd, 2012  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

#### **Important Dates**

Now - Jan 27	Rocket into Reading
Week of Jan 30	Conferences
Feb 7	4th & 5th Grade Arts Showcase
April 3	Science Fair

#### **Dear Families,**

Last week, students were given Holmes School reading logs. This is a school-wide initiative to have students read 20-30 minutes, five nights a week and respond to what they read. We would appreciate your support in fostering a routine of reading by signing their log every night.

Conferences are next week. If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's homeroom teacher, please contact them as soon as possible.

Students and special area staff have been working hard to prepare for the 4th and 5th Grade Specials Night which will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 6 p.m. Please have students attend the specials night dressed casually (no dress shoes) so they can dance for music and move for P.E.! If any of you are interested in helping with the event (traffic flow, fund raising, video taping, etc.) please email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

#### **Specials**

**Art** - Most 5th Graders have artwork on display at the Oak Park Public Library through the month of December. Come see our surrealistic self-portraits completed in the style of Renaissance artist Arcimboldo Giuseppe. The artwork is downstairs in the "Art Alcove" in the Children's Section. [www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

**Music** - The 5th Grade Specials Night is coming on Tuesday, February 7th. Please save the date! (More information to come later)

**Spanish** - Students are working with the story *Carlos y los Tres Monstruos*.  
[www.mpoleski.blogspot.com](http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com)

**Library** - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.



## Reading/Literature

### TREASURES - UNIT 3

**Big Idea:** Using Your Wits

*(You can use your intelligence and creativity to solve problems.)*

**Theme:** Challenges

*How can using your wits help you solve difficult problems?*

**Comprehension Skill:** Identifying theme

**Comprehension Strategy:** Visualizing

**Vocabulary:** Using context clues to identify meaning of unknown words and understanding the meaning of figurative language in a story.

## Language Arts

**Writing Focus:** This week we will begin our expository essay writing project. Students will write about their favorite restaurant and what makes it so special. The rough draft is due February 9th, and the final draft is due February 17th. The project will be done mostly in class, but as students begin publishing their pieces, they may need to work on it at home to complete it by the due date.

**Grammar Focus:** Linking verbs - linking verbs link the subject of a sentence to a noun or an adjective. Common linking verbs are: *am, is, are, was, were, will be, seem, appear, look, taste, feel, and felt.*

## Math

Today we moved into the measurement portion of our math unit. Students reviewed perimeter and area. This week, our primary focus will be on calculating area. Students will use the rectangle method to determine the area of irregular polygons and then use formulas to calculate the area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms. There will be a quiz on Friday covering this week's materials.

**It is important that every 5th grade student has a calculator.** Because of its fraction capabilities, we recommend the TI-15 calculator. We still have some available for purchase at a cost of \$16.

## Science

Science Alliance (formerly known as Global Village) is a program brought to us by the Oak Park Education Foundation. The program pairs scientists with classrooms. Science Alliance scientists come into the classroom several times a year to supplement our science curriculum. Our Science Alliance scientists, Dr. Hines, Dr. Shafiro and Dr. Gonzalez, came and talked to students about their respective professions. In addition to getting students interested in science, the presentation also gave students Science Fair project ideas.

The first Science Fair project due date is this Friday. All students must submit a testable question for approval. Students should have brought home a parent letter with more Science Fair details. A copy of the parent letter, as well as other Science Fair documents, are also posted on the 5th grade wiki.

## Social Studies

Our social studies test for chapters 5 and 6 was postponed from last Friday until this Friday due to the Monday holiday and MAP testing. We will have class time to review and prepare this week. If your student does not have the study guide, it is available on the 5th Grade Wiki Social Studies page at: <http://5ksocialstudies.wikispaces.com/>

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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